



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TOWN OFFICERS

— OF —

WALPOLE, N. H.,

— WITH —

THE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT,

— FOR THE —

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1875.

New Hampshire
STATE LIBRARY,
OCT 23 1896

No.....

BELLOWS FALLS:

TIMES STEAM JOB PRINTING OFFICE.

1875.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE TOWN OFFICERS
— OF —
WALPOLE, N. H.,
— WITH —
THE HIGH SCHOOL REPORT,
— FOR THE —
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1875.

BELLOWS FALLS:
TIMES STEAM JOB PRINTING OFFICE.
1875.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

VALUATION OF THE TOWN.

Real estate,	\$800,059 00
480 polls,	48,000 00
563 horses,	57,687 00
1030 cattle,	49,249 00
7171 sheep,	26,897 00
Money,	69,755 00
Stock in banks,	31,500 00
Stock in trade,	21,150 00
Mills, &c.,	4,450 00
Carriages, &c.,	2,850 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,111,597 00
Exemptions,	8,669 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,102,928 00

ASSESSMENTS.

State tax,	\$3,188 00
County tax,	2,039 99
Town tax,	7,820 90
School district No. 1,	600 00
Village precinct tax,	300 00
Highway tax paid in labor,	2,000 00

EXPENDITURES.

TOWN PAUPERS.

CHARLES TITUS.

Frederick A. Wier, board and care,	\$29 00
George A. Blake, medical attendance,	3 00

FUNERAL EXPENSES.

Henry A. Hitchcock, coffin,	11 00
Benjamin B. Royce, sexton service,	5 00
William A. Maynard, team,	3 00
Edwin K. Seabury, 2 yards cashmere,	2 50
	<hr/>
	\$53 50

FREDERICK J. KRAETZER.

Rebekah M. Rafferty, board,	\$25 71
-----------------------------	---------

CHHRLES J. HINDS' FAMILY.

Anson Cole, goods,	\$ 8 00
Edwin K. Seabury, goods,	141 75
	<hr/>
	\$149 75

WILLIE H. BELLOWS.

Mary Hooper, board and care,	\$32 00
------------------------------	---------

STARKWEATHER FAMILY.

G. P. Porter & Co., goods,	\$19 89
George Jennings, meat,	3 18
Edward M. Holden, meat,	2 22
Oliver Hall, potatoes,	4 90
Frederick Watkins, provisions,	11 38
Clement S. Dickey, house rent and provisions,	27 68
E. A. Huntley, trunk,	3 00
Oscar D. Gray, clothing,	14 75
Nehemiah Royce, expense getting the children to the orphan's home,	39 38
	<hr/>
	\$126 38

MRS. FANNY HEFFLON.

Franklin D. Reed, board, care and clothing,	50 00
Franklin D. Reed, " " "	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$150 00

COUNTY PAUPERS.

Amount paid,	\$348 34
Amount received from the county,	304 82
	<hr/>
	\$43 52

BREAKING ROADS AND SNOWING BRIDGES.

Peter Reynolds,	\$3 00
William H. Scovell,	8 60
Gilbert T. Stevens,	18 50
Andrew Roy,	2 75
Stephen Corey,	28 00
Moses Elliott,	5 00
John W. Taggard,	1 20
Charles Gates,	13 00
Harding Ball,	6 00
Dolphus S. Booth,	5 00
William A. Maynard,	3 50
Joseph Fisher,	7 00
Sherman Watkins,	2 00
John H. Moriarty,	2 00
Solomon Ballam,	6 80
Amasa T. Bundy,	4 80
Henry W. S. Griswold,	2 00
Isaac M. Graves,	4 00
Gilbert T. Stevens,	20 60
Joseph Fisher,	7 00
Thomas F. S. Felch,	4 00
Dorr H. Adams,	4 75

Jonathan H. Putney,	22 00
William H. Scovell,	22 66
John C. Emerson,	11 20
Herman M. Wilder,	8 00
George H. Gassett,	17 55
Gardner E. Hall,	3 00
William A. Maynard,	14 00
	<hr/>
	\$257 91

BRIDGES, LABOR AND TIMBER.

Asa Pratt,	\$2 00
Benjamin B. Royce,	6 00
Rufus Leonard,	1 99
Oliver Hall,	82 00
Lewis Dickey,	24 07
Holmes & Buxton,	63 98
G. P. Porter & Co.,	62
John W. Hayward,	34 50
Bates, Aldrich & Ellis,	61 44
Charles H. Graves,	88 85
Gardner Dodge,	12 00
John W. Prentiss,	6 00
Thomas J. Pierce,	6 00
Ephraim W. Barker,	11 50
Charles H. Graves,	42 73
Charles Potter,	3 50
Henry Burt,	23 35
John E. Hodgkin,	13 00
Martin G. Hall,	4 00
George Joslin,	10 50
Bates, Aldrich & Ellis,	44 88
John C. Emerson,	2 00
Gardner E. Hall,	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$54691

REPAIRING HIGHWAYS AND PUTTING UP RAILINGS.

Gilbert T. Stevens,	\$ 5 00
Andrew Roy,	10 10
John W. Taggard,	3 70
Harding Ball,	1 80
Asa Gilbert,	2 00
Frank H. Moriarty,	10 00
Weston P. Moriarty,	20 00
Andrew Roy,	5 20
Dennis Griffin,	7 50
Lewis Dickey,	11 00
Herod W. Brown,	15 00
Oliver Hall,	93 40
Byron P. Owen,	9 50
Bates, Aldrich & Ellis,	19 77
Mathew Tole,	57 10
Joseph Fisher,	32 22
M. Armstrong,	15 00
Thomas J. Pierce,	10 50
Alfred H. Rogers,	2 00
Sherman Watkins,	1 75
Charles W. Tole,	13 00
Charles Stowell,	3 00
Mathew Tole,	16 95
John H. Moriarty,	4 20
George B. Holland,	22 80
Benjamin E. Webster,	5 00
Oliver Hall,	8 00
Samuel Royce,	6 36
Alonzo Jennings,	4 80
Herod W. Brown,	11 00
Ebenezer Proctor,	41 15
Isaac M. Graves,	26 00
Joseph Fisher,	10 32
Nehemiah Royce, estate,	30 32
G. P. Porter & Co.,	1 58
Edwin K. Seabury,	4 45
John Jennison, Jr.,	3 60
John C. Emerson,	7 50
	<hr/>
	\$552 57

TOWN OFFICERS.

Abel P. Richardson,	} Sup. School Com.	\$45 00
George Aldrich,		45 00
George A. Blake,		55 00
Benjamin E. Webster,	} Selectmen,	185 50
Nehemiah Royce,		165 00
William A. Maynard,		150 00
Abel P. Richardson, Town Clerk,		50 00
Benjamin F. Aldrich, Treasurer,		25 00
Christian B. Lucke, Collector,		125 00
		<hr/>
		\$845 50

WALPOLE AND WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

Herod W. Brown, repairing bridge house,	\$40 25
John L. Farnsworth, labor on bridge,	12 00
Sanford Granger, repairing bridge,	123 97
Cheshire Mutual Fire Insurance Co.,	31 00
Bartholemew Driscoll, work on bridge house,	1 00
G. P. Porter & Co., goods,	6 00
John W. Hayward, damage for not removing stone,	6 80
Bates, Aldrich & Ellis, timber,	37 50
William A. Maynard, team,	15 00
Ephraim W. Barker, rod,	1 25
Isaac M. Graves, stone,	3 00
Henry C. Podwin, work,	2 00
Edwin K. Seabury, hardware,	5 81
William A. Maynard, snowing bridge,	18 00
	<hr/>
	\$303 58
Received	73 11
	<hr/>
	\$230 47

TOWN LIBRARY.

George A. Blake, appropriation for books,	\$100 00
Ransmo L. Ball, care and room rent,	60 00
Edwin K. Seabury, blank book,	1 12
	<hr/>
	\$161 12

TOWN HOUSE.

Benjamin B. Royce, labor,	\$1 50
G. P. Porter & Co.	73
Bates, Aldrich & Ellis,	1 07
George H. Hodskins, wood,	14 44
Byron P. Owen, labor and pipe,	27 40
Roswell S. Blanchard, labor,	1 25
Herod W. Brown, setting glass,	2 70
T. J. Harris, insurance,	146 25
Edwin K. Seabury, kerosene and chimneys,	7 00
	<hr/>
	\$202 34

CEMETERY.

B. B. Royce, raking leaves and picking brush,	\$19 00
B. B. Royce, mowing and raking,	23 25
B. B. Royce, care and repairing fence,	15 55
H. C. Podwin,	1 50
R. S. Blanchard	8 75
W. A. Maynard, team,	1 00
E. W. Barker,	1 10
E. K. Seabury,	1 64
Bates, Aldrich & Ellis,	6 13
	<hr/>
	\$77 92
B. B. Royce, Cr. by leaves and hay,	12 00
	<hr/>
	\$65 92

POLICE.

D. L. Belding, 1873,	\$2 00
D. Griffin,	\$5 00
B. Driscoll,	5 00
W. A. Maynard,	1 25
E. W. Barker,	1 25
B. B. Royce,	21 50
	<hr/>
	\$36 00

SHEEP KILLED BY DOGS, 1873.

C. E. Watkins,	\$55 00
A. Roy,	10 00
E. Smith,	10 00
J. C. Fletcher,	9 00
	<hr/>
	\$84 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

W. A. Maynard, teams,	\$41 25
C. B. Lucke, discount on taxes paid before Sept. 1st,	415 59
E. L. Cushing, attorney's fees,	22 87
Stationery and postage, 1873,	5 00
G. H. Tilden & Co. books,	8 40
J. N. Morse, printing town reports and tax bills,	79 00
A. P. Richardson, reporting births and deaths,	8 50
G. A. Blake, " " "	1 75
W. B. Porter, " " "	2 00
W. A. Maynard, precinct expenses,	300 00
J. D. Hinds, tolling bell,	1 00
L. B. Wright, " "	1 50
Abatement of taxes, 1873 and 1874,	89 45
B. P. Spaulding, land damage,	50 00
W. H. Severns, " "	7 50
E. Hosmer, " "	138 67
T. Taunt, insufficiency of highway,	62 50
For support of schools,	3809 08
L. L. Lord, Drewsville cemetery,	50 25
C. Fisher, surveying roads and town lines,	12 50
J. B. Russell, collector, 1869, abatement tax,	3 85
J. D. Hinds, trimming trees on common,	3 00
N. Royce, teams and money paid out,	19 90
F. D. Reed, insufficiency of highway,	25 00
B. F. Aldrich, payment of bonds and interest coupons,	3893 00
H. Burt, teams and money paid out,	18 75
Major J. Britton, watering trough,	2 00
Mathew Tole,	3 00
	<hr/>
	\$9075 31

RECAPITULATION.

Town paupers,	\$536 34
Breaking roads,	257 91
Bridges,	546 91
Highways,	552 57
Town Officers,	845 50
Walpole and Westminster bridge,	230 47
Town Library,	161 12
Town House,	202 34
Cemetery,	65 92
Police,	36 00
Miscellaneous,	9,075 31
<hr/>	
Total,	\$12,510 39

TOWN DEBT.

Bonds due,	\$19,500 00
Interest due on same,	195 00
Floating orders,	1,081 49 ^{2131.49}
Other unpaid bills, estimated,	1,050 00
<hr/>	
	\$21,826 49

ASSETS.

Taxes of 1874 uncollected,	\$1,731 52	192306
State bonds on hand,	300 00	
Interest due on same,	30 00	
Amount due from county,	43 52	
Cash on hand,	151 02	
<hr/>		
	\$2,256 06	
Present indebtedness of town,	\$19,570 43	

ESTIMATES FOR 1875.

Town paupers,	\$800 00
County paupers,	100 00
Highways and bridges,	1,300 00
Town officers and contingent expenses,	1,850 00
3000. - Schools, amount required by law,	2,789 50
State tax,	3,188 00
County tax,	1,911 95
Interest on debt,	990 00
Bonds due,	2,800 00
Library,	160 00
	<hr/>
	\$15,889 45

WM. A. MAYNARD, } *Selectmen of*
 HENRY BURT, } *Walpole.*

REPORT OF TOWN TREASURER.

For the year ending Feb. 28, 1875.

RECEIPTS.

1874.

Mar. 1, Cash on hand,	\$553 90
“ from county for paupers,	304 82
“ for interest on state bonds,	180 00
“ “ “ taxes,	91 56
“ from town of Westminster, for bridge,	58 10
“ from State for savings bank tax,	579 49
“ “ “ railroad tax,	512 80
“ “ “ literary fund,	193 11
“ “ “ U. S. Bounty,	192 00
“ from circus for license,	19 75
“ “ H. W. S. Griswold for bridge stone.	20 02
“ “ John Horty for bridge	15 00
“ “ B. B. Royce for leaves,	5 00
“ “ C. B. Lucke, collector,	14,587 70
	<hr/>
	\$17,313 26

DISBURSEMENTS.

Cash paid State tax,	\$3,188 00
“ county tax,	2,033 99
“ orders,	11,940 25

1875.

Feb. 27, Cash on hand,	151 02
	<hr/>
	\$17,313 26

BENJAMIN F. ALDRICH, *Treasurer.*

The undersigned committee appointed to settle with the selectmen and treasurer, have examined their accounts and find them well vouched and correctly cast.

GEORGE ALDRICH,	} <i>Auditors.</i>
JOSIAH G. BELLOWS,	
EDWIN K. SEABURY,	

SPECIAL REPORTS.

DISTRICT No. 2.—Miss MARY A. WELLS of Athens, Vt., was employed in the summer and Miss NELLIE M. ATWOOD of Alstead in the fall. They are both experienced teachers and have been previously engaged in this school. They are good disciplinarians and the scholars made very commendable improvement under their direction.

Mr. HORATIO MCINTIRE was placed in charge of the winter school, in compliance with a vote of the district at its annual meeting instructing the Prudential Committee to secure his services. At each visit to the school, especially at the closing examination, we were strongly impressed with the wisdom of this vote of the district. Mr. McIntire's executive ability and promptness of action, (very essential qualifications in a school like this of sixty pupils,) enabled him without much apparent effort to bring the school under a wholesome regime. The orderly conduct of the pupils, both in the school room and out of it, and the ready answers of the classes in the recitations were good evidence that they had earnestly responded to the call of their drill master.

DISTRICT No. 3.—The Prudential Committee of this district was fortunate in his selection of teachers. Mrs. M. M. JOSLIN of Alstead, a veteran teacher of twenty terms' experience taught the summer school. She is an earnest worker in the school room, and at the close of the term it was apparent, that the seed which she had sown, had fallen upon good ground. Miss E. M. WHITCOMB of Saxtons River, Vt., was placed in charge of the winter term. This was her second school. She is a good scholar and a faithful teacher. Under her instruction the school made as rapid progress as in the summer.

DISTRICT No. 4.—This school was in charge of Miss EMILIE M. GREENE of Alstead, through the summer and fall terms. She is an old teacher. Has been employed in this school and others in town in years past. All are familiar with her record.

Mr. FRANK E. HOWARD of Meriden, was employed in the winter. This was his first attempt. He commenced under rather unfavorable auspices, yet by the inherent force of character which

he possesses, his natural aptness to teach, and his genial manners, he soon won the good-will of his pupils. This, in connection with the gentlemanly bearing and orderly conduct of the larger scholars, rendered the discipline of the school comparatively easy. A few weeks after the commencement, a fearful epidemic made its appearance, which removed one of its number to that higher school above, carrying mourning into family circles, and throwing a pall of sadness over the school room itself. The average attendance was much lessened on this account, yet those who were able to attend constantly made good advancement.

DISTRICT NO. 5.—Miss AGGIE GRANT of Drewsville, teacher. The school year in this district we should like to pass over in silence, but duty calls us to perform an unpleasant task. Miss Grant's scholarly attainments were not what they ought to have been, but it was represented to us that the pupils were all small and backward, and it was urged she would answer the purpose for the summer term, consequently she was permitted to teach the school. At the close of the summer term we found not much to censure and very little to commend. It was reported to us that the parents were all pleased with the school and also the children and she was engaged for the fall term. We thought not to interfere against the voice of the district. At the commencement of the fall term there were sixteen pupils, some of them from district No. 9. Before the term closed complaints came to us thick and fast and of various kinds. At the close we found six small scholars present, and they appeared listless and indifferent and also the teacher. Miss Grant was not wholly responsible for the condition of the school at its close. Several of her pupils were sick,—those belonging to district No. 9 had left to attend their own school, and two of the larger ones had left purposely. Any school decimated in such a manner would make a sorry appearance, but much more so where no life and animation had been infused into the pupils. We are sorry the school was not a success. If teachers expect to meet with success they must qualify themselves, and then success is not always certain. The teacher informed us that whispering had been tolerated, because the pupils had done so previously. Comment is unnecessary.

DISTRICT NO. 6.—The summer term of this school of eight weeks, was taught by Miss ELECTA M. FARWELL of Harrisville,

this State. She came to us recommended by the Prudential Committee, as having taught with good success in an adjoining district in Alstead. She seemed to possess an amiable disposition, but her technical and general information were faulty. We leaned to the side of mercy, which warped our better judgment and permitted her to take charge of the school. At the close we found a fair attendance and good order,—no whispering during the term was reported. Some of the recitations were fair, especially in Mental Arithmetic. Some improvement was made in all the studies pursued, but not so much as might have been made under the influence of a teacher better qualified.

The winter term of twelve weeks was taught by Miss MARY E. DARBY, of this town, a young lady the very opposite of her predecessor in the school room. Although very young and a beginner, she seemed to understand the requirements and possess the ability to make the school a success and she did.

Carrie Webster had only one, and Edward A. Knowlton only two imperfect recitations during the term. Katie Fisher and Warren Knowlton did almost as well. Whispering was wholly done away with. Recitations, at the close, mostly good. Very fine progress was made in reading and geography.

Miss Darby possesses the elements necessary to make a first class teacher. We hope she will thoroughly qualify herself and make teaching a specialty.

DISTRICT No. 7.—As usual this district enjoyed a summer and fall term of school. The first was taught by Miss LILLIE F. LEBOURVEAU, a beginner in teaching, who was enthusiastic in her endeavors to do well by those in her care and we are happy to record her success.

Miss ANNA WATKINS, likewise a beginner, was put in charge of the second term, who, as was remarked by a visitor, “deserves credit for her persistent efforts to make the school a success.” This is a good school for beginners in teaching.

DISTRICT No. 8.—This school has been in operation two terms the past year. The first term of seven weeks was taught by Miss JENNIE M. MERRIAM. She has been employed in this school six terms before. The second term of six weeks was in the care of Miss JENNIE A. WHITNEY of Londonderry, Vt. It numbered eight in the summer and five in the fall. There are but four schol-

ars in the district, the rest came from other districts. We were in the school once during each term; at one time we found three pupils and two at the other. We believe this school would be very much benefitted, if the plan of consolidating the districts was adopted. It will be found by referring to the Register that it has cost \$21 $\frac{7}{8}$ to send each of the four pupils of this district to school *thirteen* weeks.

DISTRICT NO. 9.—The summer school was in care of Miss JULIETTE CHAPPELL whose success in teaching has been often reported. The committee did not attend the final examination, not being informed of the time of its occurrence. The scholars were quite too irregular in their attendance to make a profitable school.

The winter school was taught by WM. G. DAVIS, a young man from Dartmouth, inexperienced in the business in which he engaged. An unfortunate incident occurred in the last week of the school which renders a complimentary notice quite out of the question. It is hoped that it may prove a striking lesson to all immediately interested, impressing the importance of always "holding the passions in absolute sway."

DISTRICT NO. 10.—Miss CLARA J. GRAVES taught this school. seven weeks in the summer with an attendance of fifteen pupils and an average per cent of attendance, ninety-three. There are some interesting pupils in this school, and for so short a time they made good improvement. The pupils were orderly in their behavior and the teacher labored hard to promote their welfare. No whispering was noticed during the term. We are satisfied all was done for the interest of the school that reasonably could be expected.

Mr. Edward Watkins took charge of the school for the winter commencing with twenty-five pupils. At our first visit we were favorably impressed with the teacher in the school room, and with the school. March 1st we visited this school, the day before it closed. We found the same number of pupils present as we did at our first visit. Any teacher knowing the feelings of parents in this district at the commencement of the school, would not decide without some hesitation what course to pursue, failure and success were so evenly balanced. A more experienced teacher, we think, would have adopted a policy more energetic but Mr. Watkins thought a passive policy the best, and perhaps he acted

wisely. The school was a fair one in many respects. We think the attainments of the pupils were greater than was manifested; they seemed to lack self-reliance and energy. The order was pretty good. We have no doubt the teacher labored conscientiously and faithfully, to make the school a perfect success, and he is certainly entitled to much credit for his faithful services. The best directed efforts are not always crowned with success.

DISTRICT No. 11.—Miss LIZZIE C. JOSLIN taught the summer school in this district, consisting of seven pupils in all and only five at the close. The parents manifested some interest in the school by helping trim and decorate the school room the last day. This is one of those schools where the pupils are so few in number that no teacher can awaken anything like life and interest, consequently the school always appears not just what it is. Miss Joslin is very young and unassuming, but is faithful and willing. We have no doubt, with age and experience, she will make a good teacher. Her examination would hold equal rank with many adult teachers. She had fair success, all things considered.

The winter term was taught by Miss JULIETTE CHAPPELL one of our oldest teachers. She had a tedious term of sixteen weeks with little variety to relieve the monotony. We visited the school once and found everything all right. The school closed Feb. 12, a day that will be remembered by those who had the rashness to prolong their stay out of doors. We intended to have been present at the close; but "Old Boreas" puffed a gale from the region of the Esquimaux, at the rate of sixty or seventy miles per hour, while the mercury during the day was playing round zero, both of which made us pause and consider whether we had better stay at home and husband our caloric for a few days longer, or visit the school and take the chances of frost bitten hands and ears. We chose to stay at home, believing that "discretion is the better part of valor." Miss Chappell is an old teacher and one of those that can be trusted; therefore we feel that our presence the last day would not have added materially to our report. We understand by those competent to judge, that the school was a success.

DISTRICT No. 12.—Miss MARY A. RAWSON taught in both summer and winter terms. Scholars and teacher always made a good appearance in their new and comfortable school room. There was evidence of good instruction by this teacher who has been in this

school several terms before. Nine marks of tardiness in the summer and fifteen in the winter are reported, which is a great improvement in this respect from what we have sometimes seen in this district. Four pupils were not absent one half day in the summer. The committee were disappointed in not finding present certain scholars at the winter examination, who were absent without excuse. We would remind the parents and friends of this school that an occasional visit from them would prove a source of encouragement.

DISTRICT NO. 13.—The summer term was taught by Miss GRACE S. ROYCE, with her usual success. The school was orderly and made commendable improvement.

The winter school was under the instruction of Mr. GEO. T. ALDRICH. This was his first appearance on the teachers' rostrum. He commenced his labors with a settled purpose of doing his work well and success crowned his efforts. He evinced a tact for organizing and directing his classes in a manner to command respect and at the same time secure good order. His method of instruction was thorough and such as to engage the attention and arouse the energies of his pupils. The closing exercises were satisfactory to all who witnessed them, showing that the classes had been carefully drilled. We hope that other schools in town may yet receive the benefit of his instruction.

DISTRICT NO. 14.—Miss GRACE S. ROYCE taught the summer and winter schools, twenty weeks in all. There were seventeen pupils in the first term and fifteen in the second. Only one instance of tardiness in summer and ten in winter. Considerable interest was added to the examinations by rhetorical exercises suited to such scholars, attracting a number of visitors.

GENERAL REMARKS.

There are periods in the history of the world, when there seems to be a spontaneous awakening and turning from the old beaten paths that have been trodden for years, and to substitute something better and more in accordance with the age in which we live. We have had three of these periods of reform in the educational interests of New England. One was immediately after the war of 1776; the second in 1827; and the third in 1846. Space will not allow us to particularize in all the reforms that have been made. Those curious to know what those reforms were are referred to the statistical reports and the legislation on the subject in New England for the past century.

Our fourth reform should consist in utilizing our resources. Let every candid man ask himself this question: Do we expend the liberal amount of money raised for our schools as a thriving, judicious man would in private affairs? If we do not expend it properly, why not? Is it because we are afraid of innovation, or is it because we do not understand our real wants?

We think the way is open whereby the town can make a yearly saving of many hundred dollars, and have as good schools as those we have at the present time; or, by making the same yearly appropriations, have much longer and better schools than at present. This better state of things can be brought about by adopting the "Town System" in whole, or even in part. There is no prospect of our small schools ever increasing from local population. One way to increase the size of our schools is to re-district the town or portions of it.

A committee was appointed last March to take the subject into consideration and make a report thereon at the annual meeting in 1875. The hostility manifested against any action on the subject, and the time and labor necessary to make a proper report, discouraged the committee and no report has been made. We hope the town will insist on a full report.

Many of the summer schools the past year have been taught by very young, inexperienced teachers, consequently no one could expect anything more than limited progress. All teachers must be

gin sometime, but a certain maturity of mind is necessary for a teacher to teach successfully, even very young pupils.

Our winter schools, as far as we know, have all been prosperous. Sickness in some of the districts has prevented so full an attendance as otherwise would have been. There have been no disturbances incident to winter schools, with one exception, and that near the close of the school. We feel to congratulate the several districts on so happy a deliverance.

We have introduced a new series of readers into the schools the past year, in order that uniformity might be secured. We think they were received with general favor by teachers and pupils. We are satisfied that our text-books at the present time are as good as any in use, consequently no further change need be made.

There are several school houses in town that need to be thoroughly repaired, or new ones ought to be built. Some of them are absolutely unfit for children in cold weather. Parents should take into consideration that they are not only impairing the health of their children, but putting their lives in imminent peril, by allowing them to occupy such school rooms, to say nothing of the comfort necessary for children to make any progress in study. Some of the doors are without panels, windows without panes, and large cracks and holes in the floor through which the cold wind whistles, singing the children's *requiem* while living.

No man, with common humanity, will allow his favorite horse to stand six hours daily in a current of cold air; if so, he should be prosecuted by the "Society for the protection of dumb animals." It is hoped something will be done to make those cheerless hovels more inviting and cheerful. We also hope every school room in town will be furnished with mural maps and better blackboards—the cost is trifling.

The committee has been called upon to perform some unpleasant duties the past year, in districts No. 2 and 10. In the latter district a feud has existed for some time between certain parties. Mr. John L. Houghton belonged to one of the parties. He was employed to teach the winter school one year ago, having taught the same school several times previously. The other party felt aggrieved, and remonstrated without success. Mr. Houghton was hired again to teach the past winter, and the opposition waxed stronger. The committee strongly advised Mr. Houghton to withdraw; urging as

reasons the success of the school and the peace of the district. Mr. Houghton saw the force of our reasoning and retired from the contest, feeling, we hope, that by so doing he was serving the interest of all concerned. Another teacher was procured which we trust has satisfied all parties.

In district No. 2, Mr. Horatio McIntire taught the school one and two years ago successfully; but during the winter he had some difficulty with one of the citizens of the district,—Mr. Monroe, which ripened into mutual hostility. It was rumored that Mr. McIntire would be hired again for the past winter, which roused Mr. Monroe & Co. up to fever heat. Petitions, remonstrances and letters poured in upon us against Mr. McIntire, thick as autumn leaves. On the other hand Mr. McIntire was represented as the man wanted to teach the school. It was not easy to decide what should be done, and while waiting for more light in order to make a just decision, Mr. McIntire commenced the school. All the families having children to send were represented in the school, numbering over sixty, and as both parties were satisfied with Mr. McIntire's school last year, we thought it a pity to mar the prospect of another good school, therefore we kept quiet. Favorable results justify the course the committee has pursued in both districts.

It is a well known fact, proven by the history of the world, that nations as well as individuals, never strive with each other without some misunderstanding or a deliberate encroachment on the rights of one party by another. Such being the case it would be best to consider well, before commencing a quarrel, which party is the aggressor, if we would live according to a high moral and Christian standard. If peace is an object of life, concessions should be the practice. All have rights that are entitled to respect, and those rights should be held sacred. One nation cannot domineer over another long without war, neither can parties of the same nation. Neighborhood feuds are of the same character only on a smaller scale. Teachers cannot domineer over their pupils nor parents over grown up children long without friction; therefore concessions should enter largely into our daily intercourse with neighbors and mankind generally.

During the controversy which has been brewing in these two districts, the past year or more, the committee has been the *target*

for animadversion, virtuous indignation, and sometimes, we fear, of censure clothed in language not fit for saintly ears, all of which we can endure, if necessary, but are willing to forgive and forget. One thing is certain, we shall not hesitate long, where duty is at stake, what course to pursue.

Our Educational System as has been said, has had its times of prostration and times of comparative strength within the last century. It has had its allopathic and homœopathic doses, but still the patient survives and is in lusty strength. The people are too conservative in school matters, and one reason is, because many well meaning empirics have administered doses that did not work well, hence many persons hesitate long before adopting new ideas.

Progress is a planet of slow growth, and especially in matters pertaining to our common schools, yet where is the person whose memory serves him thirty years who can say he has seen no progress? Are not our teachers better qualified, have we not better text-books, better school apparatus, and are not our schools better and more humanely governed? Once physical strength was considered indispensable in our winter schools; now such qualifications are considered unnecessary; and yet our schools, with proper teachers, were never more orderly than at present. Some say "there is no government of youth in schools or at home." At home there is as much or more government, only it has changed hands; the children govern now.

Matthew Arnold, an English Divine, remarks that "conduct is three-fourths of life," and we agree with him. In order that our youth may acquire proper conduct, every teacher should be required to teach practical morality, temperance, punctuality, true politeness, chaste language and all those virtues which make the perfect man and woman, divested wholly of dogmas.

We would have conventional politeness taught only incidentally; but we would have that kind instilled into the minds of our youth, which is the result of practicing the golden rule. Neither would we go back fifty years, and impose on our youth the propriety of doffing his hat to every one; but we would have him show proper respect to all with whom he might come in contact, and especially to the aged. At the present time it is seldom we meet a lad who is truly polite; but when we do it is like coming upon an oasis in the midst of a desert; it is so refreshing.

Let all our youth be instructed that good conduct, which shall embrace three-fourths of life, will confer more happiness on themselves and others, than all the Greek and Latin they can acquire in a lifetime; not that we think less of Greek and Latin; but more of virtuous conduct. Without the latter no one can make life a success, but with it very few will fail. Let the youth of our land then well consider, that every act of life, and every minute of time, are fractional parts of the whole of life, which must be carefully watched.

A. P. RICHARDSON, }
 GEORGE ALDRICH, } *Supt. School Committee.*
 S. H. PORTER, }

Report of the Committee for Dist. No. 1.

In fulfillment of their duties as prescribed by the statute, your committee herewith submit their report of the condition of the schools entrusted to their care during the year. It has been about twenty years since the adoption by the district of what is familiarly known as the graded system, in the management of their schools. The results of the system have been viewed with constantly increasing interest and satisfaction. At no time have its good fruits been more manifest than during the past year. For the first time, the several departments have been favored in accordance with the vote of the district, with three *full* terms of twelve weeks each.

Your committee believe that this is no more time than may profitably be spent in this work of education. We believe that the length of the schools should be increased rather than diminished, and would recommend that they be continued as long, or longer, for the year to come. Nothing of importance has occurred during the year requiring the interference of the committee; in each department the teachers have kept their pupils in a suitable state of subjection and maintained among them respectful and orderly deportment. The ease with which this has been done is due

largely, we think, to the policy which has grown in favor in recent years of retaining the services of the same teachers from term to term and from year to year. As a general thing this policy is the wisest and best. We trust that the same wise policy may prevail in future. Without further introduction we ask your attention to a few remarks in regard to the separate schools.

HIGH SCHOOL.

For five successive years the school has been under the tuition of Mr. CURTIS R. CROWELL, a gentleman well suited by temperament and culture to take charge of a school of this character. While we have sometimes thought that the adoption of more vigorous and energetic methods would prove a decided gain to all concerned, we still recognize the fact that every teacher can work to best advantage in his own way. We are not inclined to be captious, especially when so much good work has been done, but merely throw this out as a suggestion which may possibly be of future service. The fruits of Mr. Crowell's efforts certainly speak loudly in his praise. Aiming at substantial results rather than at cheap display, he seeks to lead his pupils to think for themselves rather than to acquire great facility in the parrot-like repetition of mere words and phrases. Introducing such questions as to help the pupil to see the principle involved in the lesson, rather than be satisfied with merely committing it to memory, he has had the best of influence in promoting the intellectual development of those under his care. Mere mechanical teaching is so common and so injurious to our schools at the present day, that the method of Mr. Crowell in this respect has met with our unqualified approval. The true idea of education is to draw out and unfold the mental faculties, rather than to fill the mind with a mess of disconnected and isolated facts. We were talking not long since with a gentleman of much experience in practical matters, who offered this criticism upon our whole system of public school instruction. He said he thought "the aim should be to have the children *learn* less and *know* more." He was utterly out of patience with the system of learning merely to repeat from memory,

without any practical apprehension of the principles involved.

His idea was a good one ; and the aim of every teacher should be to get his scholars out of a mere mechanical routine, and help them to see clearly the reasons for each step as they go along. The first attempt of young pupils must of necessity be crude and imperfect. They do not know *how* to study to advantage. It is the office of the teacher to show them how, and to clear away the obstacles to their progress. Difficult as this work is, it is of radical importance. It can be accomplished more readily in the high than in the common school because the mental faculties of the pupils are more fully developed. We are glad to see that Mr. Crowell has recognized the importance and value of this kind of work and that he has met with so good a measure of success in this direction.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

This school has been for the past two years under the care of Miss EMILIE HUNTLEY of Alstead. She has labored with energy, devotion and success ; and the fruits of her work are apparent to all. It seems to be her aim to do thoroughly whatever she undertakes. In these matters of education the wisest course is "to make haste slowly." Many pupils feel—and we are sorry to see that this feeling is sometimes encouraged by parents—that unless they have gone over a great deal of ground during the term of study, nothing has been accomplished. But the fact is that the reverse of this is often, perhaps we might say generally true. Attention to a principle or topic until it is thoroughly understood, be the time longer or shorter, is the true policy. Be sure you have taken one step in the right direction and upon the true principle before going forward blindly to take the second. The wisdom of such a course was apparent in this school at the recent examination, when a class of beginners in written arithmetic exhibited a knowledge of the art of writing and reading numbers which would have done credit to much older pupils. These results could not have been accomplished without persistent and thorough drill on the part of the teacher. These scholars might have gone over more ground ;

they might have *learned* more and *known* less. But what intelligent parent is not better satisfied with the result as it stands? The real test of the progress of any school is the practical knowledge which the pupils have gained and the power of thought which has been developed. When tried by these tests we think that Miss Huntley's school stands as well as any one of similar grade, of which we have ever had any knowledge. To achieve these results there has been much earnest work on the part of teacher and scholars. We trust that parents and all friends of the school will duly appreciate the advantages which have been enjoyed. This school suffered much, especially during the fall and winter terms, from the prevalence of sickness and the inclemency of the weather. The average attendance was low, but in punctuality the record was good. During the winter term there were only four cases of tardiness. We trust that under more favorable circumstances the children will be incited in future terms to make the record of *attendance* equally satisfactory.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

During the summer and fall terms the department was under the care of Miss L. ELLA RUST, of this town, who had rendered such excellent service here for several previous terms. Miss Rust has a remarkable faculty of engaging the sympathy and interest of young pupils. She labored with zeal and diligence for the welfare of her school, introducing facts and anecdotes which came to her knowledge, in such a manner as to illustrate the subject under consideration, and to vary the regular routine of the school-room, which is so tedious to little children. Many people think that it requires no skill to teach such a school as this, and that any one who has mastered the rudiments of a common school education is competent for the task. But our experience teaches us that it is not so. One may, indeed, succeed here without that intimate knowledge of text books required in higher departments. The instruction given from books, however, is but a small part of the teacher's work. She is to create an enthusiasm and interest in study which otherwise would not exist. Mere book knowledge will not give

the power to do this which is a natural endowment and which, with careful culture, produces our best teachers. In other words, teachers, like poets, are *born* and not made. However great their culture, they must have the teaching *faculty*, or they will not be successful in a primary or any other school. It is a great mistake to suppose that *little* children do not need as high an order of teaching talent for their proper training, as those of larger growth. Your committee feel that the district was highly favored in being able to retain the valuable services of Miss Rust for so long a period; and it was with great regret that we learned that she could not continue her charge during the remainder of the year. We feel that the prudential committee were fortunate, however, in securing as her successor, her sister, Miss MARY E. RUST, who has had much experience in teaching, and who entered upon her work with zeal and interest. The school has been somewhat broken during the winter by sickness and the severity of the weather; but in spite of these drawbacks, it has been carried forward with vigor and success. In accordance with the policy to which we alluded in our introductory remarks, we hope that her services may be retained in future terms.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. A. BLAKE,	}	<i>Superintending School Committee of District No. 1.</i>
WILLIAM BROWN,		
GEORGE ALDRICH,		

TABLE NO. 1.

SUMMER AND FALL SCHOOLS, 1874.

Districts,	2	2	3	4	4	5	5	6	7	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Length of school in weeks,	10	8	10	6	10	10	13	8	8	11	7	6	9	7	7	10	6	8
Wages of female teach. per mo. inc. b'd,	\$50	\$41	\$28	\$30	\$30	\$21	\$25	\$24	\$24	\$24	\$26	\$28	\$28	\$24	\$19	\$26	\$24	\$26
No. of scholars, 4 years and upwards,	47	41	22	27	28	18	16	10	8	9	8	5	19	15	7	14	10	17
No. between 4 and 16,	46	41	22	27	28	18	10	0	8	9	8	4	19	15	7	14	10	17
No. of scholars over 16,	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of tardinesses,	231	71	4	8	17	3	8	0	3	12	0	0	13	3	1	9	1	1
No. not absent $\frac{1}{2}$ day,	0	6	7	15	7	3	4	4	3	3	1	2	4	4	2	4	4	5
No. not tardy,	2	10	19	21	16	15	11	10	5	4	8	5	10	12	6	8	9	15
No. not absent or tardy,	0	6	6	12	2	2	3	4	3	3	1	3	0	3	0	2	3	5
No. of visits of Supt. School Committee,	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
No. of visits of Prudential Committee,	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
No. of visits of citizens and others,	4	7	17	26	34	7	14	12	17	17	13	3	35	13	12	29	13	16
Months previously taught by teacher,	25	41	0	81	84	10	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	0	0	24	42	42	31	0	14	24	24
Average daily attendance,	30	31	19	24	26	11	13	9	7	8	5	4	13	14	6	13	9	16
Average percentage of attendance,	63	76	89	90	90	80	70	95	87	90	85	80	70	93	86	93	90	94

TABLE NO. 3.

DISTRICT NO. 1, 1874-5.

	SPRING TERM.			FALL TERM.			WINTER TERM.		
	High School.	Intermediate.	Primary.	High School.	Intermediate.	Primary.	High School.	Intermediate.	Primary.
Length of school in weeks,	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Wages of male teacher per month including board,	\$77.33	\$36	\$36	\$77.33	\$36	\$36	\$77.33	\$36	\$36
Wages of female teacher per month including board,	29	43	36	46	48	45	36	41	31
Number of scholars four years old and upwards,	24	33 $\frac{43}{60}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{3}{4}$	30	34	25
Average attendance,	19	43	36	24	45	45	22	38	31
Number of scholars between four and sixteen,	10			22	3		14	3	
Number of scholars over sixteen,	11	1	4	20	1	4	25	4	12
Number of tardinesses,	1	5	5	1	1	5	7	9	6
Number not absent one half day,	23	42	32	37	47	43	25	37	24
Number not tardy,	1	38	31	1	1	5	7	8	6
Number not absent or tardy,	3	6	5	4	4	1	4	5	5
Number of visits by Superintending Committee,									
Number of visits by Prudential Committee,									
Number of visits by citizens and others,	15	25	17	24	8	13	24	20	25
Months previously taught by teacher,	54	17	17.5	57	20	20.5	60	23	36

Report of Committee on Town Library.

Your committee have to report this year that the library continues to be a source of amusement and instruction, not only to our citizens but to numerous strangers who visit us during the summer months. During the past year ninety-nine volumes have been added to the library, sixty of which were purchased with the money appropriated for that purpose, and the others were presented by individuals who feel a deep interest in its prosperity.

It has hitherto been impossible for your committee to place on our shelves a modern encyclopaedia, because the purchase of a full set at once would exhaust the appropriation and nothing remain for the purchase of miscellaneous publications; just now Appleton's Cyclopaedia is being thoroughly revised and issued in serials to subscribers; to this valuable work we subscribed; it is advertised to be complete in sixteen volumes at \$5.00 each, and our purchases the past year include eight volumes of it; this will be a valuable addition to our library when complete, and obtained too without any great sacrifice of miscellaneous reading.

Whole number of books on catalogue 2056. Since our printed catalogue was issued 620 volumes have been added to the library, enough for a supplement, which is already written and alphabetically arranged on slips ready for the printer whenever the requisite funds can be obtained for printing it.

One word to the patrons of the library relative to returning books. Three weeks are allowed for the reading of all books, with the privilege of renewing the same, excepting new books, within one year from the time when placed on the shelves; if retained longer, or not renewed, a *fine of six cents* per week or *fraction of a week* is imposed, and these fines are *inexorable*; there is no appeal; the librarian and the committee have only to execute the by-laws and insist on fines being paid or refuse to deliver books to the delinquent. Be sure and see your books cancelled; do not lay them on the counter and go off without saying anything to the librarian. It is important not only that books be charged to persons taking them out, but credited also when returned, else fines will confront them that they ought not to pay, and great confusion be created in book account.

It must be remembered that our by-laws require the librarian to deliver and receive books only on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday afternoon and evening, and it is through courtesy that the library is made accessible at any other time.

We venture to say there is not another library in our country of equal number of volumes, as well selected, and valuable and accessible as ours; guard well this property; handle carefully the books; be charitable towards your committee and make liberal appropriations.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. HUNTINGTON,	} <i>Committee</i>
THOMAS B. PECK,	
GEORGE A. BLAKE,	
	<i>on the</i>
	<i>Town Library.</i>

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

Appropriation by town, March 1874,	\$100 00
Fines collected during the year,	11 52
Received of strangers for use of library,	9 24
	<hr/>
	\$120 76
Paid express,	\$ 1 90
Binding and repairing 27 volumes.	11 22
Sixty new books,	100 50
Balance on hand,	7 14
	<hr/>
	\$120 76

New Hampshire State Library



3 4677 00306254 9